GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3317
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
PROCEDURAL DELAYS IN BUILDING MILITARY PREPAREDNESS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Chief, General V.P. Malik, while watching the Army and Air Force`s joint desert exercise in north-eastern Rajasthan on February 15, 2000, has said that procedural delays were coming in the way of building country`s military preparedness;

(b) if so, the measures suggested by the Army Chief to avoid procedural delays; and

(c) the follow-up steps being taken to remove the bottleneck in procedural delays?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific suggestions in this context have been received from the Chief of Army Staff.

(c) The defence procurement procedure was formulated and prescribed in 1992 by the Government. The procedure is comprehensive and includes measures to ensure that a conclusive and objective view is taken while selecting a weapon/weapon system and that extraneous factors do not influence the decision. The system is designed for procuring equipment against Qualitative Requirements specified, approved and confirmed through a system of trials and evaluation by the Services and through a process of competitive tendering to ensure cost advantages. Government is fully alive to the needs of country`s defence preparedness and all steps are being taken to streamline the procurement process and to minimise the time taken in decision making.